

upon want of complete harmony, dependent, as it was, upon the comparative merits of soundness and prospects of prosperity of various forms of security. [When the Exchange closed, a scale of minimum prices was first fixed, based upon the mean prices of the 27th July 1914: the minimum price of Consols was there placed at 72£.] Later on, the Treasury considered that an immediate reduction of minimum prices was required in the public interests, and sanctioned a revised list in which Consols, *e. g.*, were fixed at 66].

A practical difficulty then occurred with respect to the values to be placed upon stocks and shares for the purpose of assessing the death duties where holders of securities had meantime died. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the values of stocks and shares must be assumed as the market price which existed upon the last day on which the Stock Exchange was open, with certain qualifications. But it was reasonably retorted that there was in reality no real market price at that time, and the values of the day, prescribed by the Chancellor, could not have been obtained; that in scarcely a single instance could a stock or share have been sold at anything approximating to the current prices then affixed; so that all estates falling in by death while the Stock Exchange prices were admittedly artificial should (it was fairly suggested) be allowed a just discount from the fictitious values of the 30th July. As a consequence of this position, estates were thus incompetent of realisation and distribution; beneficiaries were adversely affected; and detriment accrued to the National Revenue through the deferment of these duties.

*October  
3rd.*

It had already been officially announced (on the 20th of August) that during the present hostilities, the Convention, known as the Declaration of London, should be adopted by Law—a measure, however, which had never previously been ratified by Parliament. As it will be observed hereafter, the consequences of

this document (now accepted as Law)  
had never been subjected to careful  
thought and foresight, and hence had  
never been realised to mind. For  
example, the *Emden* cruiser could have  
justified its sinking of British